

"CONSPIRACY IN AMERICA":

Conference May 16 to 18 in Los Angeles—Part 1

Jeff Cohen
Campaign for Democratic Freedoms
P.O. Box 9662
Marina del Rey, Calif. 90291

A conference on "Conspiracy in America" took place May 16 to May 18, 1975, at the Univ. of California at Los Angeles. The conference progressed from scrutiny of assassinations to the "war conspiracy" and on to issues of repression by the Los Angeles Police Department.

Donald Freed, author, welcomed participants to the conference on behalf of the sponsoring group, the Campaign for Democratic Freedoms. In his opening remarks, Freed leveled strong charges at the "New Centurions" of the Los Angeles Police Department, the "Blue Machine":

- (1) The L.A.P.D. suppressed evidence in the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy under direction of the Central Intelligence Agency;
- (2) The L.A. police intelligence unit had prior knowledge that black revolutionaries Jonathan and George Jackson would be killed;
- (3) The L.A.P.D. retains dossiers for purposes of blackmail, on reporters and management of local newsmedia, including the "L.A. Times", and on elected officials, including Mayor Tom Bradley.

In his keynote speech on Friday night, Mark Lane ridiculed the Warren Report and its favorite phrase: "The Commission has found no evidence that ...". The audience roared with laughter when Lane exposed one of the Commission's "no evidence" claims by producing a "Chicago Tribune" front-page story linking Jack Ruby and the Syndicate to the murder of a union official in 1939.

George O'Toole, author of the book "The Assassination Tapes", Professor Peter Dale Scott, and Paul Hoch, researcher, joined Mark Lane in expounding the case for conspiracy in the Dallas assassination of President Kennedy. The showing of the Zapruder film was accompanied by the narration of CBS newsman Dan Rather and his extraordinary, contrary to fact, description of Kennedy's reaction to the fatal shot: "... (he's) driven forward with great force. No doubt about that."

A workshop on Saturday morning, "How to Get Your Dossier", explored citizens' rights to government files under the amended Freedom of Information Act.

Lake Headly, the official investigator for the families of the Symbionese Liberation Army, presented never-before seen TV footage of the fire fight that left six SLA "soldiers" charred to death. Headly's presentation and film exposed that the L.A. police report was a coverup:

- (1) The tear gas barrage began only after two trained police dogs failed to detect Patty Hearst's presence.
- (2) There were no "repeated bull-horn demands" despite assertions to the contrary by the L.A.P.D.

- (3) The police knew of the telephone in the SLA house, but did not attempt to utilize phone communication to negotiate a peaceful surrender.

Headly suggested that the L.A.P.D. "overkill" was an attempt to bury forever the relationship of Donald (Cinque) DeFreeze of the SLA and L.A.P.D. intelligence officers.

Saturday afternoon was highlighted by the speeches of two prominent victims of FBI clandestine operations. Anti-war Professor Morris Starsky told how he lost his teaching job as a result of a concerted FBI sabotage campaign, which included "poison-pen letters". The FBI sent forged letters from "anonymous alumni" to the Arizona State University administration alleging that the professor had a propensity toward violence and sexual deviation.

David G. Du Bois of the Black Panther Party discussed the nationwide conspiracy behind the murder of 28 Party members. The Party's weekly newspaper, which Du Bois edits, has become a forum for articles on assassinations, the CIA, and other conspiratorial agencies.

On Saturday night, Robbie Meeropol, cold war orphan, marveled at the conference's linkage of 20 years of official violence and coverup: "From the Rosenbergs to Rockefeller".

Tom Hayden, candidate for the U.S. Senate, seconded Meeropol's observation that the American people's consciousness has been raised over the years. As proof, Hayden recalled an unrecorded incident from his school days at the University of Michigan. Hayden was snafued by administrators when he attempted to arrange a speech on the "liberal" campus for Mark Lane, the pariah of 1964. Today, Mark Lane speaks to crowds of 5,000 in Monroe, Louisiana, and Taft, California.

Jane Fonda, actress, a panelist on "The War Conspiracy", described her million dollar suit against Nixon, FBI, IRS, CIA, et al., for violation of her civil rights. Fonda's attorneys have secured a series of memos exchanged by FBI agents that reveal an FBI concern with predicting the exact delivery date of Fonda's baby. How is this information relevant to national security — how does it justify a wiretap, tax audit, and mail cover?

Peter Dale Scott, author of "The War Conspiracy", joined in exposing the Mayaguez incident as a military provocation analogous to the Gulf of Tonkin hoax.

The highlight of Saturday night was a presentation of flowers to the Union of Vietnamese Students in celebration of peace. The students had faced deportation as a result of past demonstrations against U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The students, who received a standing ovation from the crowd,

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